

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02977 020531Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 ONY-00 /018 W  
-----021518Z 025546 /40 R  
R 011656Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9816

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 2977

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ASEC, PINT, GR  
SUBJECT: FIVE SENTENCED FOR FIREBOMBING AMERICAN-OWNED  
VEHICLES

REF: ATHENS 2921

1. FIVE YOUTHS ARRESTED LAST AUGUST AND CHARGED WITH FIRE-  
BOMBING PRIVATE VEHICLES, MOST OF THEM AMERICAN OWNED,  
RECEIVED JAIL SENTENCES FROM AN ATHENS COURT APRIL 1. FOUR  
OTHERS WERE ACQUITTED. ONE OF THOSE FOUND GUILTY RECEIVED THE  
STIFF SENTENCE OF 22 MONTHS IN JAIL. THE OTHER FOUR RECEIVED  
SENTENCES OF 10 OR 11 MONTHS WITH THE OPTION OF CONVERTING  
THEIR SENTENCES TO FINES AT THE RATE OF DRACHMAS 150 PER DAY.

2. THE PRINCIPAL DEFENSE ARGUMENT WAS THAT THE DEFENDANTS  
HAD PERFORMED A "PATRIOTIC ACT" IN ATTEMPTING TO DESTROY  
AUTOMOBILES OWNED BY AMERICANS. IT WAS ALSO ARGUED THAT THE  
DEFENDANTS SHOULD NOT BE PUNISHED UNLESS THE AMERICAN  
SERVICEMEN WHO HAD STOLEN GREEK FLAGS IN A TOWN OUTSIDE THE  
IRAKLION LAST WEEKEND WERE ALSO PUNISHED (DETAILED AIR FORCE  
INCIDENT REPORTS HAVE BEEN SENT TO CSAF WASHDC, THE LATEST  
OF WHICH WE HOLD IS CONFIDENTIAL 6931 SCTYG IRAKLION AS  
DTG 301735Z MAR 77.)

3. AS NOTED IN REFTTEL, THE ACTUAL OR ATTEMPTED FIREBOMBINGS  
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OF 16 AMERICAN-OWNED VEHICLES DURING THE EARLY MORNING OF MARCH 30  
MAY HAVE BEEN CONNECTED WITH THE ABOVE TRIAL, WHICH BEGAN  
MARCH 31. WE UNDERSTAND THE TRIAL PROCEEDINGS WERE FAIRLY  
STORMY, PRIMARILY DURING THE TESTIMONY OF A WITNESS, BYRON  
STOMATOPOULOS, WHO WAS A DEPUTY MINISTER DURING THE JUNTA  
PERIOD FROM 1971 TO 1973, AND WHOSE CAR WAS ONE OF THOSE  
DESTROYED. THE DEFENDANTS' LAWYERS REPORTEDLY OBJECTED

VIGOROUSLY TO SOME OF HIS TESTIMONY, WHICH IN TURN LED TO  
DISTURBANCES IN THE COURT ROOM.

4. THE WITNESSES ALSO INCLUDED SOME OF THE AMERICANS (PERSONNEL AT HELLENIKON OR JUSMAGG) WHOSE VEHICLES WERE DESTROYED. SEVERAL OTHER AMERICANS CONCERNED HAVE SUBMITTED WRITTEN DEPOSITIONS. NONE OF THE AMERICAN WITNESSES WAS INVOLVED IN THE COURTROOM CONTROVERSY.

5. AFTERNOON NEWSPAPERS ON APRIL 1 REPORTED THE RESULTS OF THE TRIAL FACTUALLY AND WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT.  
KUBCCCH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
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**Subject:** FIVE SENTENCED FOR FIREBOMBING AMERICAN-OWNED VEHICLES  
**TAGS:** ASEC, PINT, GR  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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